Title: Need for a long term perspective plan to combat drought and desertification of Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU (ANANTAPUR): Anantapur district is the second lowest rainfall district in the whole country with 522 mm annual average rainfall. It is the second worst drought-hit district in the country and it is notified by the Government of India as desert-prone. The National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) has confirmed through Remote Sensing that signs of desertification have been noticed in the satellite imageries. For the past 50 years, since Indpendence, many piece-meal programmes have been contemplated and implemented under DPAP, DRDA, DDP, etc. But no visible signs of any permanent solution to reduce the drought proneness or desertification is seen in spite of numerous programmes.

Almost every year, drought relief measures are demanded and implemented and a long-term solution is not available. The people of Anantapur strongly feel that there is a need for long-term action perspective plan to mitigate the drought-proneness and desertification. So, we request the Government of India to set up a Commission to study and prepare a long-term action perspective plan for combating drought and desertification of Anantapur district and once for all the problem of drought and desertification is addressed to the extent possible.